

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 01658 230658Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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R 230541Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1352  
INFO USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 1658

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PFOR PINT SREF IR IZ  
SUBJ: CONTACT WITH KURDISH REPRESENTATIVE

REF A. STATE 38565 B. TEHRAN 1073 C. BAGHDAD 267

1. REF A ARRIVED AFTER ALI-SULAIMAN'S FEB 20 VISIT TO EMBASSY, IN WHICH EMBOFF TOOK BASICALLY PASSIVE LINE SIMILAR TO THAT COUNSELED BY DEPT. ALI-SULAIMAN VOLUNTEERED ONLY SCANT NEW INFORMATION FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE. FOLLOWING ARE BASIC POINTS COVERED IN CONVERSATION:

2. ALI-SULAIMAN SAID KURDISH DEMOCRATIC PARTY (KDP) GROUP HERE HAS BEEN WORKING WITH UNHCR TO ASSEMBLE LISTS IN CASE USG DECIDES TO ACCEPT UP TO 600 OR 700 REFUGEES. THIS HAS BEEN MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE ADULT KURDS MAY NOT LEAVE CITIES IN WHICH THEY ARE RESIDENT WITHOUT POLICE PERMISSION. ALI-SULAIMAN SAID BULK OF KURDS REMAINING IN IRAN WHO WISH TO EMIGRATE (SEE REF B) EITHER WANT TO RETURN TO IRAQ TO FIGHT WITH PESH MERGA OR GO TO ENGLAND OR THE U.S. AND OPT OUT OF THE CURRENT KURDISH NATIONALIST STRUGGLE. ALI-SULAIMAN SAID THOSE WISHING TO LEAVE IRAN ARE MOSTLY YOUNGER KURDS WHO SEEK EDUCATION OR NEW CAREERS ABROAD. KEP LEADERSHIP IS CONCERNED  
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THAT YOUNGER KURDS ARE BECOMING MORE LEFTIST.

3. IN RESPONSE TO GENERAL QUESTION ON KURDISH SITUATION, ALI-SULAIMAN SAID 300,000 KURDS WERE MOVED FROM NORTH TO SOUTH LAST YEAR. IRAQI GOVERNMENT FREQUENTLY MOVED FAMILIES OF THOSE FIGHTING IN THE HILLS WITH PESH MERGA. GUERRILLA FORCE CONSISTS OF 3,000 PESH MERGA "WHICH COULD EASILY BE INCREASED

TO 5,000 OR 10,000." BULK OF PESH MERGA SUPPORT BARZANI, ALTHOUGH BARZANI AND TALABANI SUPPORTERS ARE ACTING TOGETHER. ALI-SULAIMAN DESCRIBED RELATIONS BETWEEN TALABANI GROUP AND BARZANI SUPPORTERS AS VERY OFF-AND-ON BUSINESS WITH GROUPS NOW COOPERATING AGAINST IRAQI LEADERS. ALI-SULAIMAN SEEMED ALMOST READY TO MAKE PLEA FOR SYMPATHETIC USG ATTITUDE AND SUPPORT, BUT STOPPED SHORT OF ACTUALLY DOING SO.

4. ALI-SULAIMAN SAID IRAQI MISSIONS TO OTHER COUNTRIES AIMED AT INDUCING KURDISH LEADERS TO RETURN TO IRAQ. HE NOTED THAT THOSE WHO RETURNED LAST FALL FROM IRAN WERE SETTLED COMFORTABLY IN THE KURDISH AREAS, MOSTLY AROUND ARBILL AND SOULAIMANIEH. THEY RECEIVE GOVERNMENT HAND-OUTS, BUT HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN WORK AND ARE NOT ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR FARMING AREAS. IN DISCUSSION OF KURDISH DIFFICULTIES WITH IRAQ, ALI-SULAIMAN REFERRED CONSISTENTLY TO "BAATH REGIME" WHICH HE CLAIMED HAD TRIED TO KILL GENERAL BARZANI TWICE AND HIS SONS ONCE EACH.

5. COMMENT: EMBOFF RECEIVED INFORMATION WITH NORMAL INTEREST AND ATTENTION BUT ASKED NO FURTHER QUESTIONS. IN DISCUSSION REGARDING KURDISH YOUTHS WHO WISHED TO EMIGRATE, EMBOFF INFORMED ALI-SULAIMAN THAT WE HAD RECEIVED NOTHING REGARDING FUTURE REFUGEE POLICY. ALI-SULAIMAN ASKED TO RETURN IN MID-MARCH TO CHECK FURTHER WITH EMBASSY. EMBASSY HOPES TO BE ABLE TO PASS ON PROMISED (REF A) GUIDANCE ON FURTHER REFUGEES MOVEMENT THEN.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Review Markings:**  
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